

Crowder Lake Dam Rehabilitation Underway

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The rehabilitation of Crowder Lake Dam has begun.

The dam, which was built in 1959 south of Weatherford, was only constructed to last for about 50 years, and the principal spillway conduit through the dam had been deteriorating. Work is underway to replace the drawdown structure and the outlet pipe on the dam.

Paul Hummel, director of Crowder Lake University Park, said the rehabilitation process will last approximately one year. Crowder Lake has been lowered but some water remains in the lake to allow fishing from the banks. Black bass fishing is catch and release only. Boating is not allowed. All camping areas and the ropes courses remain open as usual.

Other improvements planned include changes to the boat ramp and the addition of another dock.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University operates Crowder Lake University Park. For more information, contact Hummel at 580.774.6015. Additional information about the rehabilitation of Crowder Lake Dam is available at <http://www.swosu.edu/academics/crowderlake/index.asp>.